

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00563 180305Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
/057 W

-----180307Z 073402 /73

R 171130Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9508
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 0563

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJ: OPPOSITION CHOOSES PRESIDENT

1. PAK PRESS JANUARY 17 CARRIES STORY THAT MUFTI MAHMUD OF THE CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS JAMIAT ULEMA-I-ISLAMI POLITICAL PARTY HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS PRESIDENT OF THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA) - THE RECENTLY FORMED AMALGAM OF OPPOSITION PARTIES - IN PREPARATION FOR THE ELECTIONS. MUFTI MAHMUD, THE ACTING LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE DISSOLVED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND FORMER NWFP CHIEF MINISTER, IS NOT KNOWN FOR EITHER HIS LEADERSHIP TALENTS NOR DYNAMISM. HE DOES MEET THE MAJOR CRITERION FOR PNA LEADERSHIP, HOWEVER, OF BEING ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE ALLIANCE PARTIES.

2. MAHMUD SAID DURING PRESS CONFERENCE ON 16TH THAT THE LIST OF PNA CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS HAS BEEN COMPLETED. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE STILL 6-8 SEATS FOR WHICH PNA HAS NOT AGREED ON
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JOINT CANDIDATES. MAHMUD ADDED THE PNA HAS DECIDED TO BOYCOTT ELECTIONS IN BALUCHISTAN BECAUSE "SINCE THE MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN BALUCHISTAN HAD MIGRATED FROM THEIR AREAS THERE WOULD NOT BE MANY LEFT TO CAST THEIR VOTES." HE THEN SUGGESTED THE ELECTION IN BALUCHISTAN CONSEQUENTLY BE POSTPONED. IN SPITE OF MAHMUD'S DISENGENUOUS REASONING AND HIS STATEMENT THAT THE PNA HAD SUFFICIENT POTENTIAL

CANDIDATES FROM BALUCHISTAN, WE BELIEVE FACED WITH THE
OVERWHELMING PPP JUGGERNAUT AND, WITH SENIOR PROVINCIAL
NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY LEADERS STILL JAILED, A NEARLY NON-
EXISTENT OPPOSITION PARTY STRUCTURE IN BALUCHISTAN
(76 ISLAMABAD 12105) THE PNA HAS CHOSEN TO CONCENTRATE
ITS EFFORTS ON THE OTHER THREE PROVINCES.
BYROADE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY ALLIANCE, PARTY LEADERS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: OPPOSITION CHOOSES PRESIDENT
TAGS: PINT, PK, PNA, PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE, (MAHMUD, MUFTI)
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